

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, XA, GB, GH

SUBJECT: GSA REQUEST TO INCREASE MANGANESE DISPOSAL RATE

1. GSA HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE TO INCREASE DISPOSAL RATE OF MANGANESE, BATTERY GRADE NATURAL ORE FROM 15,000 SHORT DRY TONS P.A. TO UNLIMITED SALES. GSA PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED BY PL 91-331 JULY 10, 1970 TO SELL 173,800 SDT OF WHICH ONLY 486 TONS SOLD TO DATE. RECENTLY HOWEVER, US FIRMS HAVE OFFERED TO PURCHASE 70,000 TONS OF THIS MATERIAL DUE TO A SHORT FALL NOW IN THE MARKET. SHORTAGE IS POSSIBLE RESULT OF DECLINE IN MANGANESE ORE SHIPMENTS FROM GHANA. INFORMATION APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT OVER THE PERIOD 1969-1973 GHANA SUPPLIED US WITH ABOUT 60,148 TONS OF MATERIAL COMPARABLE TO GSA STOCKPILE NATURAL MANGANESE OF BATTERY GRADE. FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1974, HOWEVER, GHANA HAS NOT EXPORTED ANY SIMILAR MATERIAL TO U.S.

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ACTION REQUESTED

BEFORE GIVING CONCURRENCE TO GSA PROPOSAL DEPARTMENT
NEEDS TO KNOW CURRENT SITUATION IN GHANA AS REGARDS
PRODUCTION OUTLOOK FOR BATTERY GRADE MANGANESE ORE AND
WHETHER THIS MATERIAL WILL AGAIN BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT
TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT ALSO NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT

POSSIBILITIES THERE ARE OF PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT OF
THIS GRADE OF MATERIAL FROM GABON TO THE U.S. WOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE ACTION POSTS' ASSESSMENTS OF WHAT HOST
GOVERNMENT REACTIONS TO INCREASE OF SALES OF BATTERY GRADE
MANGANESE FROM GSA STOCKPILE MIGHT BE. REPLIES REQUESTED
ASAP. KISSINGER

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